



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending May 15, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)*

**Good Week for Field Work:** Cool, dry conditions prevailed last week in Pennsylvania, allowing field work to progress full steam ahead but limiting crop progress and germination. In spite of minimal rainfall, topsoil moisture is yet to reach drought levels. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work this past week. Principal farm activities included plowing, hauling manure, hauling lime, general farm maintenance, cutting hay, planting corn, oats, tobacco, and soybeans, and putting livestock out to pasture. Spring plowing is well ahead of schedule and is now 92 percent complete.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 15, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
3	43	52	2

**Crops:** Farmers continued to plant the last of the oats as 98 percent of this year's crop is now planted. This is 9 percentage points ahead of historic averages. Some welcome warm weather has 66 percent of oats emerged now, close to the 5-year average of 67 percent. Oat conditions remain steady with 72 percent of what has emerged is rated as either good or excellent. Barley is heading out at 79 percent now, ahead of last year's pace but right at the 5-year average. The pace has picked up for corn planting, now 73 percent complete, well ahead of historic averages. Soybeans planted is almost half way for the season at 47 percent complete, compared to 24 percent last year. Potatoes planted is now 66 percent, behind last year, but ahead of normal for this time of year. Only 8 percent of the tobacco crop has been transplanted, but is still ahead of historic plantings. Winter wheat headed has reached 13 percent which is behind the 5- year average of 31 percent, but should catch up with a little rain and warmer weather. Winter wheat conditions were rated with the following for the week: 1 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Hay season has started, and 13 percent of alfalfa in Pennsylvania has been through the first cutting.

Timothy/clover stands have had 11 percent removed off the first cutting, which is ahead of historic averages. The alfalfa stand is looking good with 95 percent from fair to excellent, and timothy/clover stands are at 97 percent fair to excellent. The quality of hay being produced is estimated to be 10 percent fair, 27 percent good, and 63 percent excellent.

Apple trees across Pennsylvania have reached 100 percent full bloom, ahead of historic averages in development for this time of year. Ninety percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent, and 84 percent of peaches are rated as either good or excellent.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions were rated as 2 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 42 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. The conditions are worsening slowly with the continued dry weather.

**U.S. As of May 8, 2005:** For the second consecutive week, below-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the Nation. Early in the week, temperatures fell below freezing as far south as the central Great Plains, threatening jointing and heading winter wheat. Only in the Pacific Northwest and parts of the Southwest did temperatures average above normal. Corn growers had seeded 79 percent of their acreage, 2 percentage points behind last year but 12 points ahead of normal. Twenty-three percent of the acreage had emerged, compared with 34 percent last year and 26 percent for the 5-year average. Soybean planting advanced to 26 percent complete, 6 points behind last year but 3 points ahead of normal. Corn Belt growers were the most active, taking advantage of dry conditions. Oat planting advanced to 91 percent complete, compared with 90 percent last year and 81 percent for the 5-year average. Sixty-six percent of the crop had emerged, 2 points behind last year but 7 points ahead of normal.

# Weather Data For Week Ending May 15, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 15, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	79	38	57	3	0.62	4	5.11	0.29	22	139	25	415
Franklin	82	38	59	4	1.16	4	5.31	0.02	20	132	19	452
Meadville	81	41	59	5	1.11	3	4.54	-0.50	18	154	62	474
Mercer	81	39	59	4	1.35	4	6.48	1.40	21	116	-3	412
Springboro	81	33	55	-1	1.10	3	6.74	2.09	20	98	-25	364
Warren	84	36	58	3	1.03	3	6.13	0.80	19	122	18	425
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	81	31	56	5	0.69	3	3.54	-1.64	21	84	22	329
Emporium	86	32	58	6	0.41	3	2.86	-2.59	20	116	43	415
Kane	82	30	54	4	0.70	3	4.10	-1.41	20	59	0	293
Laporte	82	30	56	0	0.68	2	6.05	0.94	20	107	-17	372
Lock Haven	90	32	61	6	0.11	3	2.67	-2.10	15	172	32	515
Port Allegany	84	26	55	2	0.60	3	2.74	-2.06	16	85	4	330
Renovo	87	33	60	4	0.42	3	2.65	-2.12	17	157	17	501
Ridgway	82	35	57	5	0.50	2	3.28	-2.17	16	88	15	370
Stevenson Dam	86	34	59	7	0.52	3	3.12	-2.33	19	141	68	469
Towanda	86	30	57	2	0.06	1	4.74	0.19	14	120	-6	427
Wellsboro	82	28	56	4	0.38	3	3.65	-0.16	17	103	39	345
Williamsport	90	33	62	4	0.09	2	4.62	-0.38	12	218	35	572
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	84	28	56	3	0.24	1	6.16	0.84	14	93	12	365
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	86	32	62	5	0.35	2	4.39	-0.27	14	222	69	576
Susquehanna	82	30	56	4	0.94	1	5.77	0.24	16	106	35	396
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	82	38	60	4	1.50	4	5.62	0.55	18	161	26	517
New Castle	83	37	60	4	1.34	3	6.73	2.09	20	176	52	527
Slippery Rock	84	34	60	5	1.15	4	6.16	1.35	20	166	57	533
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	84	33	61	4	0.05	2	0.69	-4.17	7	188	21	530
DuBois	81	35	61	6	0.73	2	3.57	-1.60	22	168	54	494
Lewistown	90	37	63	5	0.93	2	3.47	-1.35	15	204	1	579
Middletown	88	43	65	5	0.01	1	5.03	-0.23	11	304	67	719
Prince Gallitzi	85	30	59	5	0.44	4	2.93	-3.56	18	114	12	417
Selinsgrove	89	37	61	4	0.33	1	5.13	0.19	12	159	-4	514
State College	85	37	62	5	0.28	2	1.85	-2.71	13	200	50	565
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	84	37	62	4	0.00	0	6.63	1.09	13	228	37	619
Lehighton	84	36	60	2	0.60	1	7.67	2.33	14	161	-20	532
Matamoras	83	34	57	-1	0.25	1	6.17	0.11	17	113	-33	423
Tobyhanna	83	35	59	7	0.32	1	5.98	-0.30	15	147	89	504
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	44	64	7	1.26	3	4.17	-1.05	16	302	132	701
Derry	84	36	62	6	1.16	3	5.14	-0.04	19	190	55	550
Myersdale	80	30	58	2	0.26	2	2.56	-3.49	14	92	-41	369
Mount Pleasant	83	35	62	8	1.13	4	3.21	-2.87	21	180	76	542
Pittsburgh Intl	85	40	64	6	2.19	3	5.65	0.83	19	270	82	652
Rector	83	40	61	7	0.97	4	4.24	-1.84	21	173	69	533
Waynesburg	85	36	61	5	1.15	3	3.88	-1.47	16	180	26	549
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	88	43	63	3	0.25	1	4.15	-1.01	13	229	-7	623
Everett	83	35	57	0	0.26	2	2.25	-2.88	13	100	-53	401
Hanover	86	37	62	2	0.07	2	4.23	-0.93	13	226	-10	615
Shippensburg	86	42	63	3	0.29	2	3.20	-1.75	13	232	-15	615
South Mountain	86	43	63	6	0.28	1	4.56	-0.30	12	222	60	616
York	84	42	63	3	0.00	0	3.95	-1.40	10	256	12	643
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	82	39	60	3	0.01	1	7.45	1.75	12	206	29	604
Hamburg	87	37	62	6	0.46	1	5.76	-0.38	12	238	101	628
Hopewell	82	40	61	-1	0.19	1	5.51	-0.25	13	210	-42	610
Lancaster	85	41	63	5	0.09	2	4.31	-0.92	11	252	57	649
Neshaminy Falls	81	37	58	-1	0.00	0	5.02	-1.18	12	160	-30	536
New Holland	83	42	61	3	0.05	1	4.59	-0.64	11	250	55	652
Philadelphia	80	47	64	3	0.00	0	5.38	-0.07	11	319	54	756
Philadelphia NE	80	41	63	2	0.00	0	4.91	-0.54	10	303	38	730
Reading	86	41	64	6	0.00	0	5.10	-0.81	10	274	96	677
Valley Forge Na	82	34	59	-3	0.00	0	7.74	1.98	11	186	-66	558
Willow Grove	80	41	62	4	0.00	0	4.74	-1.46	11	261	71	676

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).  
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.  
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.  
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.  
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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy Behney (FSA)** - Adams County continues to be dry. Field work continues in high mode with more crops being planted. We definitely need some moisture so the crops that were planted this spring could progress. Barley is starting to be chopped as forage and alfalfa is being chopped as forage this week.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Tara Baugher, (EXT)** - With the exception of some late-blooming apple varieties, fruit trees are past bloom. A prolonged bloom period has led to increased pollination and excellent fruit set in many orchard blocks.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - It was a good week for field work, but dry cold weather was not good for seed germination. We need a soaking rain; only <sup>2</sup>10 of an inch fell during the past week in my gauge.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice)** - Excellent week for crop work. Late Saturday rain was much needed.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - The weekend brought welcome rain showers to give crops a boost. Overall, pasture conditions have been fair at best. Farmers should be completing corn planting this week if the weather holds out.

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, John Rowehl** - Soil, particularly in tilled fields, is very dry. Corn planting is finishing up, and planting soybeans continues. Wheat is beginning to head out in southern areas. Plants are short and stands are not thick. Alfalfa cutting is beginning to get underway.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H Craig (EXT)** - We finally have emergence of corn and soybeans. Rainfall Saturday evening provided welcome relief to extremely dry conditions. We could use some more moisture at this time. Most orchard grass fields are still not harvested and past optimum harvest conditions. Some alfalfa producers have started cutting alfalfa. Small grains look good. No disease pressures to report.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - The rain Friday evening gave the hay crop a big boost. Many acres of corn were planted throughout the week. Things are dry. We need more rain.

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler** - We received a welcome rain shower Saturday evening. The frosty weather of the previous week has made the appearance of alfalfa weevil a non-event.

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT)** - Dry soil conditions and frost slowed the planting of vegetables. Frost damaged early plantings of sweet corn and tomatoes.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde** - It's amazing how quickly things have turned around from being too wet to too dry. Early planted no-till corn is at three-leaf stage. Lots of dust is flying. Maybe this coming week will be the turning point back to too much rain.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - Where did the rain go? We had no measurable rainfall this week. At least half the corn has been planted, and some is emerging. Soybeans are being planted by those who have finished planting corn. There is enough moisture to germinate seeds, but worked ground is very dry on top. One farmer told me, "For the first time in two years he wished it would rain." Rye is beginning to flower, some mowed for straw. Grass is short this year.

**PERRY COUNTY, David L Swartz (EXT)** - Due to the dry and cool conditions, the pasture grasses have not elongated as usual. Dairy producers who intensively graze their herd are all reporting higher milk yields from the grass this spring.

**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA)** - Thunderstorms on Saturday night relieved some of the drought concerns as most of Schuylkill County received some rainfall. Reports range from <sup>1</sup>2 to 2 inches. Work for the week included planting final corn acreage and starting on the soybeans. Hay making is expected to commence this week.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer** - The week was a very good one for field work; however, growing conditions were not favorable. The oats fields are very streaked due a lack of rainfall. The alfalfa and timothy stands are very short. There are a few corn fields that have emerged. The main activities were planting corn and soybeans, cutting and making haylage, spraying herbicides, hauling manure.

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS)** - The major activities this week were planting and spraying corn. Some oats are still being planted. Very cold Friday morning broke record low temperatures. First cutting hay crop appears to be short. Farmers are gearing up to harvest hay starting this week.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - We have ideal conditions for corn planting. Our first corn planted on May 6 is up on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Trying to spray between wind storms. We could use some warm rain. Only had <sup>2</sup>10 of an inch over the weekend. Hay is growing very slowly.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Another good week for field work. A few parts of the county need rain. This is the first spring in at least 3 years with almost ideal planting conditions. After the cold temperatures in late April, some of the early-planted corn is responding nicely to the warmth. If the weather stays dry, alfalfa harvest should be in full swing next week. This was the best week for grass growth this spring.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 15, 2005**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	92	84	81
Corn, planted	73	65	60
Corn, emerged	17	29	27
Barley, heading or headed	79	76	79
Wheat, heading or headed	13	24	31
Oats, planted	98	88	89
Oats, emerged	66	55	67
Soybeans, planted	47	24	21
Soybeans, emerged	5	7	6
Tobacco, transplanted	8	0	5
Potatoes, planted	66	73	59
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	13	14	11
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	11	3	2

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 15, 2005**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	1	15	67	17
Oats	0	4	24	60	12
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	4	31	54	10
Timothy clover stand	1	2	37	54	6
Quality of hay made	0	0	10	27	63
Pasture	2	9	42	36	11
Peaches	0	5	11	19	65
Apples	0	1	9	57	33

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